UNIT 3.3 – ORGANIZED NATIONALISM AND REFORM MOVEMENTS

Lesson 1: SECULARIZATION AND FILIPINIZATION

SECULARIZATION

It was a movement during the Spanish colonial period that aimed to **transfer the administration of parishes** from Spanish friars to Filipino secular priests.

The goal was to **give Filipino priests** the **right to lead** and **manage local churches** because they were already trained and qualified. However, many Spanish friars opposed this, believing that Filipino priests were not yet capable.

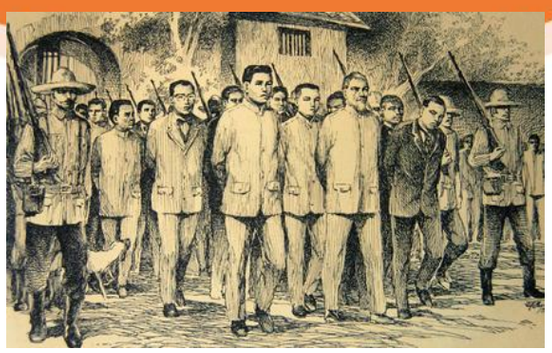
Father Pedro Pelaez was a Filipino secular priest who defended the rights of Filipino priests during Spanish rule. He supported the **secularization movement**, which called for Filipino priests to manage parishes instead of Spanish friars. His efforts inspired later Filipino reformists and priests.

FILIPINIZATION

A broader, nationalistic policy aimed at placing Filipinos in positions of power and authority, replacing foreign officials in both the church and the government.

CAVITE MUTINY

On the evening of **January 20, 1872**, a revolt took place in Cavite. It was led by **artillery**, **soldiers**, and **workers** in an arsenal. The rebels captured **Fort San Felipe**, a **Spanish camp** that was then under Spanish control. The strike was the **result** of the **increase in taxes paid** and the **re-implementation of forced labor** or ***polo y servicio*** among workers. This scramble was led by **Fernando La Madrid**, a mestizo sergeant. The next morning, the Spanish soldiers led by **General Felipe Ginoves** immediately gathered. They attacked the agitators. Sergeant La Madrid and other associates were killed. The Spanish camp was in military that uses large caliber of guns reestablished.



After the bloody incident, the Spanish announced that the uprising that occurred was the **result of a desire to overthrow the Spanish government**. It was led by liberals and priests who promoted secularization. Because of the direct exaggeration of the issue, many Filipinos have been accused of having brains in the uprising like those who were advocating reform in the Philippines. Among those arrested were Jose Maria Basa, Antonio Ma. Regidor, Maximo Inocencio, and others. The priests arrested were Padre Toribio del Pilar, Padre Mariano Gomez, Padre Jacinto Zamora, Padre Jose Burgos, Padre Mariano Sevilla, Padre Justo Guanzon, and Padre Pedro Dandan.

EXECUTION OF GOMBURZA

The three martyr priests, **Padre Mariano Gomez**, **Padre Jose Burgos**, and **Padre Jacinto Zamora** (GOMBURZA), were the final victims of the trials. According to a false witness, Francisco Zaldua, the **three priests allegedly led the uprising** and **wanted to overthrow Spanish power in the Philippines**. He added that **Padre Burgos** was the **elected leader** of the **Republic of the Philippines**. Even the lawyer for the three priests, Jose Arrieta, said Padre Burgos admitted to being part of the rampage.

Despite this, **Padre Burgos insisted** or contended that he was **innocent**. But the **false testimony was sided by court** and **sentenced GOMBURZA to death**. They were **executed by *garrote*** in **Bagumbayan** (now Rizal Park) on **February 17, 1872**. Spanish government officials have even sought to further **embarrass the GOMBURZA priests** by **taking their clothes off** before hanging. The **Archbishop of Manila**, **Meliton Martinez**, **did not agree to the request** of Governor-General Izquierdo. The archbishop believed that the **three priests did not betray the Church**. On the day of the execution of the three priests, the **Church protested** by **ringing bells**. Those who **witnessed the hanging knelt** and **took off their hats** in **honor of GOMBURZA**. Zaldua was included in the execution. It only shows that the Spaniards used him to link the three martyr priests from the said uprising.

One of the **witnesses** to this event was **Jose Rizal** who was at that time at a very young age. His brother Paciano took him to witness the death of his former teacher and friend Padre Burgos.

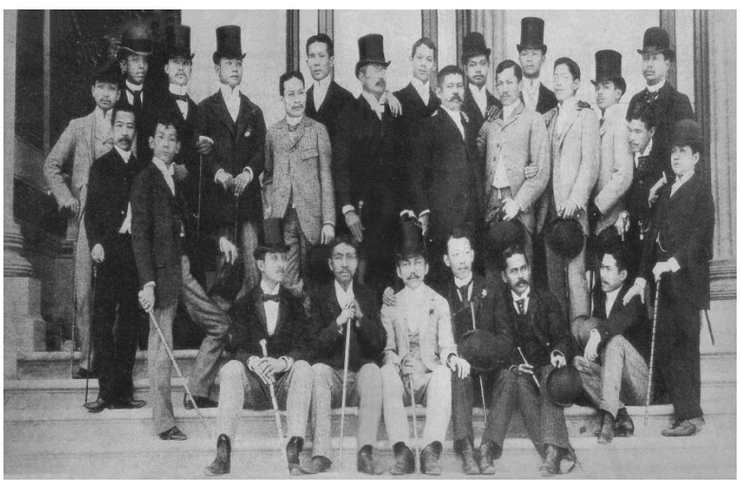
The secularization campaign may have failed at the same time as GOMBURZA died. But the **unjust execution** was the **precursor to the rise of Filipino nationalism**, especially among

liberal students at the time. For example, the hanging has affected the enrollment of law students at the University of Santo Tomas. In this regard, more than half of the students failed their final exam in March 1872. One of them was Paciano Mercado Rizal (Jose Rizal's older brother). Paciano did not finish the law course.

The Spanish injustice, oppression, and cruelty to the Filipinos remained after the deaths of Gomez, Burgos, and Zamora. Despite this, the Spanish government of the time aimed to eliminate any form of rebellion, opposition, and criticism of their method of governance. The impact of this rule on Filipinos is felt from the poor to the rich and educated. The poor Filipinos have lost hope of improving their lives. Despite their poverty, they were forced to pay high taxes by the colonial government. Meanwhile, the **middle class**, or ***ilustrado***, as well as the rich and educated Filipinos, **did not tolerate the abusive** and **deceitful rule of the Spanish**. The study of the *ilustrados* in Spain **paved the way** for the **opening of their minds** to the **unequal treatment** imposed by the Spanish government in the Philippines. This event led to the formation of an organization more commonly known as the Propaganda Movement.

Lesson 2: PROPAGANDA MOVEMENT

GOALS OF THE PROPAGANDA MOVEMENT



Many Filipinos from the elite and middle class used their situation in the nineteenth century to study in Europe and to introduce the reforms that have been observed and experienced there. This was the reason for the creation of the Propaganda Movement.

The **Propaganda Movement began in 1882**. Those who supported it were known as propagandists or reformists. They used their talents and skills in writing, painting, and speaking to seek reform from the King of Spain.

These propagandists tried to achieve change through peaceful means, including the following reforms:

- representation of the Philippines in the Spanish Cortes;
- secularization in the parishes of the Philippines;
- right to express, write, and organize for change;
- equal rights for Filipinos as Spanish citizens; and
- "assimilation" of the Philippines as province of Spain.

LA SOLIDARIDAD

The first attempt by the propagandists in Spain to **establish a newspaper** where they could publish their aspirations occurred in 1876. The **first newspaper** was called ***España en Filipinas***, with its first issue hitting the streets of Madrid on March 7, 1877. However, the newspaper *España en Filipinas* ceased publication. **Mariano Ponce** did not stop gathering funds to establish another outlet to advocate for the causes of Filipinos in Spain.

Spreading liberal thoughts and exposing the slurs perpetrated by the Spanish had become a dangerous practice for propagandists. As a result, the use of **pseudonyms** or **aliases** has become the main tactic of propagandists.

The ***La Solidaridad*** was established on February 15, 1889, in Barcelona, Spain. It was used in the news to obscure and learn the identity of Filipinos. This was done **to protect their reputation** and **protect their relatives against the friars and Spaniards** in the Philippines.

Key Reformists of the Propaganda Movement:

Antonio Luna – He was the only propagandist who was a trained scientist and pharmacist, known for his expertise in science while supporting the reform movement. He then later became a military leader in the Philippine-American War.
Pen name: *Taga-ilog*
Works: *Impresiones and La Tertulia Filipina*.

Graciano Lopez Jaena - The "Greatest Filipino Orator." He was the first editor and founder of *La Solidaridad* in Barcelona, known for his impassioned, almost "Pentecostal" eloquence in speeches.
Pen name: Diego Laura
Works: *Fray Botod, La Hija del Fraile,* and *Esperanzas*

Jose Maria Panganiban - He was known for having a "photographic mind" and for using his writing to specifically debunk the *"indio"* inferiority complex imposed by Spaniards.
Pen name: *Jomapa*
Works: *Ang Lupang Tinubuan* and *La Patria*

Jose Rizal - A versatile genius, doctor, and novelist whose writings exposed the abuses of the Spanish colonial government and clergy, fueling Philippine nationalism. He became the most prominent member of the movement.
Pen name: *Laong-laan* and *Dimasalang*
Works: *Una Profanacion, La Indolencia de los Filipinos*, and *A La Defensa*

Marcelo H. del Pilar – He was the "Father of Philippine Journalism" or "True Soul of the Separatists." He was the only propagandist who wrote extensively in the vernacular (Tagalog) to reach the masses, using satire to parody Catholic prayer books. He was the **second editor of *La Solidaridad*.**
Pen name: *Plaridel*
Works: *Dasalan at Tocsohan* and *Caiingat Cayo*

Mariano Ponce - He was unique for using multiple, distinct pseudonyms in *La Solidaridad* representing different facets of his writing (personal, historical, and folklore-based). He headed the Literary Section of the *Asociacion Hispano-Filipina*.
Pen name: *Kalipulako, Naning,* and *Tikbalang*
Works: *Efemerides Filipinas* and *Ang Wika at Lahi*

Filipino professional and intellectual illustrators became members of the Propaganda Movement in the late nineteenth century. Some of them are doctors, lawyers, and writers. When they were in Europe, they showed grace in their respective fields to notice and convey the desire for equal rights as the Spaniards enjoyed. The members of the movement also thought about publishing a newspaper that would present the reforms they demanded. It was founded by Galicano Apacible, Jose Ma. Panganiban, Mariano Ponce, Pablo Rianzares Bautista, and Santiago Icasiano. Meanwhile, the main sponsor of this newspaper project is Mariano Ponce who became its administrator and business manager. For this reason, the newspaper *La Solidaridad* was formed which first appeared on February 15, 1889, in Barcelona, Spain.

Mariano Ponce

La Solidaridad means "**unity**" in the Filipino language. This newspaper became the **voice of propagandists** in Spain. The issue is published twice a month by Filipinos living in Europe. Due to lack of funds, the newspaper was stopped on November 15, 1895.

The objectives of La Solidaridad were printed on the first page of the first issue:

- Our program, besides being harmless, is very simple, and it is to fight all reactions, block all measures that oppose, praise, and accept all liberal ideas, and defend progress;
- La Solidaridad also includes the goal of gathering and collecting liberal ideas that are exposed daily in the political camp, in the fields of science, arts, literature, commerce, agriculture, and industry.
- Let's consider the islands in the Philippines special and note that they need the most help after denial of representation in the Cortes. We will play a national role in the defense of democracy on these islands. A nation of eight million souls should not be the exclusive property of theocracy and conservatism.

Contributions of the Propaganda Movement

In many organizations that have been established, can the Propaganda Movement be said to be successful? We can say that the **movement was not successful** because the organizations formed did not last long. Two of the **organization's leaders**, **del Pilar** and **Jaena**, **died in Spain**, while **Rizal** was **sentenced to death** by the colonial government.

Marcelo H. del Pilar

Graciano Lopez Jaena

There were many reasons why the movement was not successful. There was a **lack of organization** and **unity among reformists**. Furthermore, they were **hindered by the strong influence of the friars in Spain**. Some wealthy Filipinos have also lost interest in supporting the organization because they see no change from the reforms that propagandists demanded from the King of Spain.

But on the other hand, it will be noted that the **organizations formed by the Filipino reformists** in Europe were **important contributions** of the **Propaganda Movement** to our history and should not be overlooked. The Propaganda Movement made important contributions because through these organizations, **ideas are formed**, **issues are discussed**, **goals are planned**, and **Filipino national consciousness is shaped**.

LA LIGA FILIPINA

On July 3, 1892, **Rizal founded *La Liga Filipina*** in Ilaya, Tondo to **serve as a means for the unity of Filipinos**. It is said that **Andres Bonifacio** was also present **as an observer** during the first and last meeting of *La Liga Filipina*. Rizal began the conception of *La Liga Filipina* when he was in Hong Kong from Spain to the Philippines. Rizal thought of **drafting a constitution** containing the following objectives:

1. unite the whole archipelago;
2. to protect all members of the organization against violence and unfair treatment;
3. pay attention to agriculture, education, and trade; and
4. implement reform.

Like some organizations founded by Filipino reformists, *La Liga Filipina* **received criticism** from the **Spanish authorities**. For them, the establishment of this organization is dangerous for their governance because it provides an opportunity for Filipinos to unite against them.

When the Spaniards suspected that the organization was a revolutionary movement, they **arrested Rizal** and **imprisoned** him at **Fort Santiago**. He was also **exiled** to Dapitan, Zamboanga del Norte in 1892 by the order of Governor-General Eulogio Despujol. While Rizal was imprisoned by the Spaniards, it **marked the end of *La Liga Filipina***. Other members attempted to continue pursuing the organization's goals, supporting La Solidaridad.

Numeriano Adriano

Andres Bonifacio

The members failed to continue its activities as they saw the pursuit of reforms as futile due to the unresponsiveness of the Spanish colonial administration. The fight did not end but was divided into two groups. The ***Cuerpo de Compromisarios*** under the **leadership of Numeriano Adriano** and the **radical group** known as ***Katipunan*** founded by **Andres Bonifacio**. The *Compromisarios* tried to continue the fight of the propaganda movement in a peaceful way. But, they had difficulty gathering funds from the elite Filipinos.

Apolinario Mabini

On August 19, 1895, **Apolinario Mabini**, the secretary of the *Compromisarios* in Manila, wrote to Marcelo del Pilar that the group had decided to cease publication of the newspaper.